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Page 21

Date:

Bennett Backs U.S. Troop Use in Cuba

U.S. Rep. Charles E. Bennett yesterday advocated the use of American troops "if necessary" to carry out provisions of the Monroe Doctrine in Cuba.

"We'll be in a bad way," Bennett told delegates to a conference of FBI National Academy alumni here, "if we allow communism to seize control of that strife-torn nation."

"It was terrible for us to stand by and watch China go Red. Perhaps even more terrible was our failure to win in Korea."

"And now, with the Western Hemisphere threatened by a Red surge in Cuba, we should first attempt to cultivate vigorously our friendship with the free people of Cuba. If such a gesture should fail, we should be prepared to invoke the Monroe Doctrine and go in with troops."

Bennett, who outlined the major issues expected to go before Congress in this month's session and then gave his views on a variety of other issues, was the group's major speaker on the opening program at the Florida State Chamber of Commerce Building with 70 delegates attending.

The ranking majority member of the House's committee dealing with the Central Intelligence

Agency, Bennett dwelled at length on the "embarrassing and most unfortunate" U2 spy plane incident.

He criticized President Eisenhower for becoming involved in the U2 dispute rather than leaving the matter up to CIA.

"The most horrible error of all was Eisenhower's move to shut off U2 activity which was our best instrument of keeping up with activities behind the Iron Curtain," he added.

Concerning Powers, Bennett said, "I doubt that any long-trained CIA agent would have arrived (in Russian hands) alive." He said Powers had the tools for self-destruction but failed to use them.

"It was a case of needing a man for the job whose primary

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qualification was a supreme ability to handle the aircraft—not training and aptitude for espionage." Thus, the program backfired, he said.

"It takes a peculiar sort of dedicated man to be a spy. He must be prepared to die for his country rather than face the possible risks of brainwashing such as we know the Russians are using now on Powers."

Bennett said the consequences of the brain-washing will be that Powers will "probably say some horrible things about our country" when he makes his first public appearance.

The congressman described the technique as "giving a man a three-inch steak as a reward for saying the 'right' things and beating and starving him when he says the 'wrong' things" until he breaks down altogether.

"There is a tendency in this administration," Bennett said, "for us to wait for something to happen and then react to it. We need to take the initiative."

Major Issues

The five major issues which will be before Congress this month, Bennett said, will be care for the aged, minimum wage increases, housing (including slum clearance), federal aid to education and the farm problem.

He expressed fear in having the federal government give help and then gain control of the educational system "and see men like former Vice President Henry Wallace work their way into high positions in that field."

He predicted a care-for-the-aged bill "probably in a somewhat strange form" will pass

gress before 1961 closes; that prospects for passage of a minimum wage bill are "good this year."

Slum clearance, according to Bennett, can have its "miserable drawbacks." To illustrate, he said an area of "nice homes" within a mile of his Washington, D.C., home are being cleared away to make room for low-cost housing.

Bennett said no one has yet found an answer to the farm problem and "probably won't anytime soon."

Returning Friday

Bennett, who will return to Washington Friday at the conclusion of a short vacation, was introduced yesterday by E. Coleman Madsen, U.S. attorney from Miami.

In a morning session, the delegates heard the state's three top-ranking FBI agents—D. K. Brown of Jacksonville, Joseph F. Santorini of Tampa and Lee O. Teague of Miami—discuss recent Supreme Court decisions affecting arrests, searches and seizures by lawmen.

Edward Booth, county solicitor-nominat, joined Bennett as an afternoon speaker.

The three-day conference will continue at 9 a.m. today.

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